

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated October 21, 2005, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on January 21, 2006. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Election/Restrictions

Applicant hereby affirms the election of Group I, claims 21-44 and 55-57. Further, Applicant has canceled claims 45-54 without prejudice.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 40, 41 and 44 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. In response, Applicant has amended claims 40 and 41 to remove the recitation of "a biasing mechanism." In support of these claims as amended, the Examiner states that "fluid pressure can be used to bias the members outward." In addition, Applicant has canceled claim 44 without prejudice. Accordingly, Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims.

Specification

The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. Applicant submits that the amendments of claims 40, 41 and 44 discussed above with respect to the § 112 rejection obviate the objection. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 30-32, 40-44, 55 and 57 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Abdrakhmanov, et al* (U.S. Patent No. 5,083,608). In response, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Additionally, Applicant has canceled claim 44 without prejudice.

Applicant submits that the Examiner has misconstrued the teachings of *Abdrakhmanov, et al.* In contrast to the Examiner's statements, elements (reference number 29 in Figure 7) disclosed in *Abdrakhmanov, et al* are not extendable and are not mounted on slidable pistons. As described at column 4, lines 39-57, the elements (29) are attached to a housing (24) with arbors (27) shown threaded into the housing. Thus, the arbors (27) bolt the elements (29) in a fixed position on the housing. Since the elements cannot move in a radial direction, the progressive expansion ability of the expander disclosed in *Abdrakhmanov, et al* is due to successive sections (21, 22 and 23 shown in Figure 1) having their respective fixed working diameters diminishing stepwise.

Based on the foregoing, Applicant submits that *Abdrakhmanov, et al* fails to teach, show or suggest each and every element of claim 30, 40, 41, 42, 43, 55 or 57. Further, Applicant submits that these claims and all claims dependent thereon are allowable. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 30-32, 40-43, 55 and 57.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 33 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over *Abdrakhmanov, et al.* Applicant submits that claim 33 is allowable based at least on the traversal presented above regarding claim 30 from which claim 33 depends. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claim.

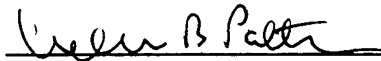
Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 21-29, 34-39 and 56 are allowed. Applicant acknowledges allowance of these claims.

Conclusion

The references cited by the Examiner, alone or in combination, do not teach, show, or suggest the invention as claimed. Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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